

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
10 March 2005 (10.03.2005)

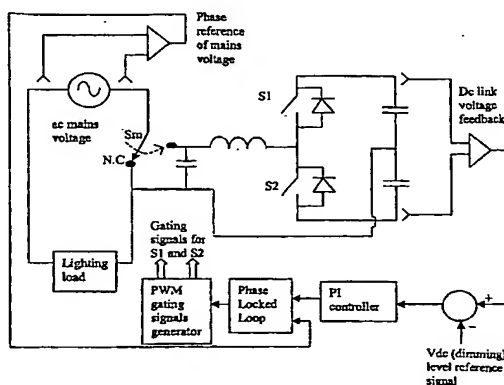
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/022952 A2

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H05B**
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/CN2004/000990
- (22) International Filing Date: 26 August 2004 (26.08.2004)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
0320067.2 27 August 2003 (27.08.2003) GB
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:
— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING DIMMING CONTROL OF LAMPS AND ELECTRICAL LIGHTING SYSTEMS



(57) Abstract: There is disclosed an energy-saving dimming method and apparatus that can be used to convert a wide range of existing "non-dimmable" electric lighting products and systems into "dimmable" ones. Examples of non-dimmable electric lighting systems are (i) high-pressure and low-pressure discharge lamps powered either by magnetic ballasts or by some electronic ballasts, (ii) incandescent lamps and (iii) a group of electric lighting systems. Based on a new integrated approach of a voltage-vector control and reactive-power control concept, the voltage applied to the lighting systems can be varied smoothly without handling the real-power of the lighting system. Consequently, the proposed dimming device and method can be used as a general-purpose, energy-saving dimming approach to the dimming of a wide range of "non-dimmable" electric lighting systems. By inserting a voltage vector through an energy-efficient switched-mode reactive-power-control circuit, the resultant voltage can be controlled and varied as a variable and controllable voltage source for dimming many electric lighting systems such as existing magnetic ballast driven gaseous discharge lamps systems and incandescent lamps.



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